AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A software program stored on a computer-readable medium for monitoring and controlling a model railroad, said software program operable to perform the steps of:

displaying a representation of said model railroad layout on a display, wherein a first portion of said model railroad layout is displayed using a first visual characteristic and a second portion of said model railroad layout is displayed using a second visual characteristic, wherein said first portion is selected to allow train movement thereon, and wherein said second portion is deselected to prevent train movement thereon; and

~~changing~~ editing said representation of said model railroad layout.

2. (Currently Amended) The software program of claim 1, wherein said step of ~~changing~~ editing said representation further comprises the step of:

moving a track element within said representation of said model railroad layout.

3. (Original) The software program of claim 2, wherein said track element is one of a straight track piece, a turnout and a curved track piece.

4. (Original) The software program of claim 2, wherein said step of moving said track element further comprises the step of:

rotating said track element.

5. (Currently Amended) The software program of claim 1, wherein said step of ~~changing~~ editing said representation further comprises the step of:

joining two turnouts together, whereby said two turnouts can be controlled jointly.

6. (Currently Amended) The software program of claim 1, wherein said step of ~~changing~~ editing said representation further comprises the step of:

changing a turnout element within said representation of said model railroad layout from a first position to a second position.

7. (Original) The software program of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

outputting, responsive to said changing a turnout element step, a command to a motor associated with said turnout element in said model railroad layout, to switch said turnout element from said first position to said second position.

8. (Original) The software program of claim 7, wherein said command includes an address of associated with said turnout element and at least one data bit.

9. (Currently Amended) The software program of claim 1, wherein said step of ~~changing~~ editing said representation further comprises the steps of:

creating a new element within said representation of said model railroad; assigning an address to said new element; and storing said address of said new element.

10. (Original) The software program of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

outputting, responsive to said changing step, an addressed command to a an element within said model railroad layout that corresponds to an element which was changed within said representation.

11. (Currently Amended) An interface unit operable to translate a command received from a computer into a motor control command for controlling at least one element within a model railroad system, said interface comprising:

a plurality of addressable units for receiving address information and data information within said command, wherein one of said plurality of addressable units that corresponds to said address information within said command translates said data information into said motor control command and outputs said motor control command, wherein said plurality of addressable units includes a set of decoders and a plurality of addressable registers, and wherein said command includes three address bits, four group bits and one data bit.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The interface unit of claim ~~12~~ 11, further comprising:

a resistor bank connected to each of said plurality of addressable registers.

14. (Original) The interface unit of claim 13, further comprising:

a triac connected to each of said resistors in said resistor bank.

15. (Currently Amended) The interface unit of claim ~~12~~ 11, further comprising:

a coil latching relay connected to each of said plurality of addressable registers.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (New) The software program of claim 1, wherein editing comprises the steps of:

identifying a graphic type associated with a type of model railroad track to be edited; and

providing a list of editing functions based on the type of track to be edited, wherein said list includes a joining function if said track to be edited is a turnout section, a change length function if said track to be edited is a straight section and a trim function if said track to be edited is a curved section.

19. (New) The software program of claim 1, wherein said first visual characteristic is green; and

said second visual characteristic is red.

20. (New) A model railroad system comprising:

a graphical user interface displaying a representation of said model railroad system on a display, wherein a first portion of said model railroad layout is displayed using a first visual characteristic and a second portion of said model railroad layout is displayed using a second visual characteristic, wherein said first portion is selected to allow train movement thereon, and wherein said second portion is deselected to prevent train movement thereon;

said graphical user interface including an editing function that selectively permits a user to, rotate, move, delete and join a track portion based on a type of track portion which is selected; and

an interface unit controlled by said graphical user interface to translate a command received from a computer into a motor control command for controlling at least one element within a model railroad system, said interface unit including:

a plurality of addressable units for receiving address information and data information within said command, wherein one of said plurality of addressable units that corresponds to said address information within said command translates said data information into said motor control command and outputs said motor control command, wherein said plurality of addressable units includes a set of decoders and a plurality of addressable registers, and wherein said command includes three address bits, four group bits and one data bit.